

BALK BOLD PLOT AND  
SAVE \$500,000 GEMS

Watchman of Big Jewelry Firm  
Pretended to Fall In  
With Scheme.

DETECTIVES ON WATCH

Two Men Arrested and Amazing  
Collection of Safe Cracking  
Tools Is Found.

Two young men who say they expected to retire from the safe cracking business if they had carried out their plan to rob Stern Bros. & Co., diamond cutters, of 136 West Fifty-second street, last Thursday night were arrested yesterday.

They are Jake Rothman, 22 years old, of 915 Intervale avenue, The Bronx, and Mike Schneiderman, 23 years old, of 73 East 16th street. Rothman is known also as Philip Weiss. His number in the "rogue's gallery" is 24523. He was sent to Elmira Reformatory for thirteen months on December 17, 1909, by Judge Rosaleky, because he was found guilty of forging orders for merchandise.

Seven men of Inspector Faurot's staff and Supt. Thornhill and Assistant Superintendent Graham of the Pinkerton Detective Agency broke into Rothman's room yesterday morning and surprised both young men in bed.

With the men they took to Police Headquarters the most complete outfit of burglar tools any one there has seen in a long time. From jimmy to tweezers nothing appeared to be lacking. These implements were carefully packed in a new suit case, two respectable looking traveling bags and a carpenter's small chest.

Tip From Underworld.

The detectives had been trailing the prisoners for a month on a tip from the underworld. Inspector Faurot would not say that the arrest and conviction of Thomas Connors for having burglar's tools in his possession started the chase, but he does not doubt that Connors belonged to the same gang as Rothman and Schneiderman. Both of them have visited Connors in the Tombs and Rothman had a receipt from George R. Simpson, a lawyer, showing that \$50 had been paid on account for legal services in Connors's behalf.

Connors was arrested for carrying a bolted sectional jimmy. One just like it was found in Rothman's room yesterday.

Detectives Gliday, Watson, Oliver, Birmingham, Ward, Pennelly and Gorman were assigned to trail Rothman and Schneiderman. Some of them were at the jail on February 25 when Schneiderman was released for Europe. They watched them as they strolled up the jewelry store of R. V. Hurd at 126 West Twenty-third street on March 7 and 8. Mr. Hurd had \$100,000 worth of jewelry in his safe.

The prisoners said yesterday that they didn't try that job because two women remained in an adjoining store that night and a watchman who passed every hour always peeped over the window curtain to see that everything was all right.

Rothman and Schneiderman went to the building at 126 West Fifty-second street Wednesday and proposed to the elevator man that he assist them in robbing Stern Bros. & Co., on the eleventh floor. They promised him \$5,000 if they succeeded. The elevator man said he wouldn't have anything to do with it. He told the night watchman about the offer. Rothman and Schneiderman approached the night watchman that night, and he pretended to fall in with the plan. He made an appointment to have them come to his house the next day to talk it over.

Detectives Listen to Plan.

The watchman informed his employers Thursday morning and they called in the Pinkerton. Assistant Superintendent Graham went to the watchman's home and concealed himself there. Rothman and Schneiderman appeared and laid their plan before the watchman. They told him there ought to be about \$500,000 worth of uncut and uncut diamonds in the three safes at Stern Bros. & Co. They said they had engaged a room in Seventh avenue near Fifty-second street and had their tools there. They offered him \$5,000 for his aid and paid him \$20 on account. The plan was for them to rattle the ground floor door of the building three times at 10:45 o'clock that night. The watchman was to let them in and they would do the rest.

When Rothman and Schneiderman rattled the door Thursday night there were seven detectives and two Pinkerton men in the immediate neighborhood. The two men were surprised when Rothman and Schneiderman appeared without their safe cracking kit. They were let into the building, but came out shortly afterward. They went to their room in Seventh avenue and slept there that night. The detectives, who went to the rooms of Stern Bros. & Co., found that the door had been jammed. The watchman said that the two men had merely looked over the place and made a sketch of the office.

Officially He Was a Girl.

Cambridge Boy Gets the Family Doctor to Fix the City's Books.

Boston, March 15.—After being registered for sixteen years as a girl in the city clerk's office at Cambridge, Frederick Melanson of that city forced the clerk yesterday to correct the official birth registration book.

The boy wanted to go to work and applied for the necessary birth certificate. At city hall a clerk searched through the files and said: "The only Melanson we have in that year is a girl born to J. A. and Bertha Melanson."

"That's me," said Fred.

"I can take your word for it," said the clerk.

Frederick hustled to the office of the family physician, Dr. Lancaster, and brought him to the city clerk's office.

"Remember perfectly the day he was born," said the doctor and took the required oath to this. The clerk's book now reads: "Frederick Melanson, boy, born April 26, 1892."

Augusta, Charles, Somerville, Savannah and all Florida points via Atlantic Coast Line. 1215 Broadway. All state Pullman Office. 1215 Broadway. Tel. Madison Square 1469.

250 TON ROCK FOR FOUNTAIN.

Rockefeller's Monolith to Be Drawn by 200 Horses.

TARRYTOWN, N. Y., March 15.—It became known to-day what John D. Rockefeller is going to do with the monolith that he has bought for his estate. It is to be placed in front of his new mansion and is to be carved into a huge fountain. The stone, which is said to weigh 250 tons, was discovered on Long Island and Mr. Rockefeller purchased it.

It is twenty feet wide and is too large to be placed on a flat car, so a special boat has been chartered to bring it to Tarrytown. Here it will be transferred to a specially constructed truck and drawn to Pocomtoco. This will require 100 teams.

How it will be taken up the hill has not yet been decided but it is said a block and fall will have to be used. The trustees are withholding permission for taking it through the streets until Mr. Rockefeller furnishes a bond.

The huge rock is to be placed near the new mansion and will carve into a massive fountain. It is said that Mr. Rockefeller searched all over the country to get a solid piece of rock large enough for his purpose and that he paid a big price for it.

HE'S 76, BUT HE TANGOS TOO.

Wife, 70, Doesn't Try New Steps at Golden Wedding Fete.

YONKERS, N. Y., March 15.—Mr. and Mrs. Moise Bloch of 1 Livingston avenue celebrated their golden wedding with a dinner and reception at Francfort's last night. They entertained sixty relatives and friends at the dinner. Seventy-five additional guests came to the reception afterward.

Mr. Bloch, who is 76 years old, danced the tango with his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Lucien D. Thalman. Mrs. Bloch is 70 years old. She hasn't learned the new steps yet.

NEW INSPECTOR HUNTS  
SUNDAY PICTURE MEN

Ryan Has Six Harlem Photographers Ordered to Court To-day.

Inspector Thomas Ryan, who succeeded George F. Titus, retired, caused consternation among Harlemites on his first Sunday in the Sixth inspection district yesterday by sending out policemen in plain clothes and in uniform to order photographers whose galleries were open for customers to appear in court to-day.

Some of the plain clothes men had their pictures taken before they handed over a summons.

The photographers ordered to appear in court were: Otto Sarony, 155 West 125th street; Sol Unger, 111 West 125th street; Josephine Brown, 2335 Seventh avenue; William Stock, 155 West 131st street; Israel Shaw, 146 West 143rd street; and Benjamin Ferber, 453 East 183d street.

Elias Chait, secretary of the Professional Photographers Club, 235 West Twenty-third street, has sent letters to all members asking them to attend a meeting of the club at Terrace Garden, Fifty-eighth street and Third avenue, tomorrow, when steps will be taken to fight the enforcement of what Mr. Chait calls "this blue law."

The crusade of the Sunday Observance League in Brooklyn to close up photographic studios on the Sabbath resulted yesterday in the service of summonses for the appearance in court of six photographers. Two were served in the Bergen street precinct by a uniformed policeman attached to Inspector Huger's staff and four from the Adams street station by a precinct patrolman. The officers got the evidence in all the cases.

Although many photograph galleries were closed in Brooklyn yesterday the untidy men in Coney Island reaped a harvest in making pictures of the first crop of 1914 beach girls.

HE'S PAT IN TIME FOR MARCH 17.

It's Patrick Cunningham, Not Peter, by Court Order.

Supreme Court Justice Cohalan, expressing judicial sympathy for Patrick Cunningham, a native of County Clare, Ireland, has signed an order changing Cunningham's Christian name in his naturalization papers from Peter to Patrick.

Cunningham said in a petition to the court that before he left Ireland at the age of 13 his family had quit calling him Patrick because so many other members of the family bore that name. They called him Peter, but when he came to this country he tried to resume the use of Patrick. He lived with an uncle named Patrick, who compelled him to be named Patrick, who compelled him to be named Patrick, who compelled him to be named Patrick.

Then he took out naturalization papers and although he told the clerk his real name was Patrick, the clerk made the papers in the name of Peter Cunningham. He says he has decided to resume the name Patrick and for that reason wanted his naturalization papers corrected.

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DR. GREER IN HIS ROBE  
TRIES SING SING CELL

Episcopal Bishop in Visit to  
Prison Learns How Locked  
Up Convicts Feel.

GUNMEN APPEAL TO HIM

Tell Prelate They Are Innocent  
—Beg Him to Aid Fight  
for Freedom.

OSWING, March 15.—The Right Rev. David H. Greer, Episcopal Bishop of the diocese of New York, confirmed a class of thirteen convicts in the prison chapel to-day, talked at length with the four gunmen in the death house and then, clad in his episcopal robes, had the unusual experience of being locked in a cell just to see what it was like.

It was the first time an Episcopal Bishop ever confirmed a class in the prison. Dr. Greer went to the prison at the request of the Rev. Burton H. Lee of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, who is chaplain for the Protestant prisoners in Sing Sing. The Bishop came to Oswing to confirm a class at St. Paul's.

The services in the prison chapel were begun at 9 o'clock. The thirteen members of the confirmation class sat in a semi-circle clad in their prison clothes. As the Bishop took his place they advanced and knelt before him. At the conclusion of the service as he was going out the convicts applauded him heartily, whereupon he turned and made a little extempore speech to them which they seemed to appreciate heartily.

Bishop Tells Convicts a Story.

"Remember the story of the two frogs who fell in a bowl of milk," said the Bishop. "One frog gave up and drowned. The other, more courageous, kept kicking and swimming around and when morning came he found that his exertions had formed a cake of butter, from which he was able to spring to safety. Pattern yourself on that. Never give up. Keep on hoping and fighting and the morning will come for you too."

In honor of the event Walden Clancy gave permission to have the chapel decorated with flowers from the prison greenhouses. About forty residents of Oswing were present at the services as guests of Mr. Lee. The names of those in the confirmation class cannot be given under the prison rules. They were confirmed under the numbers which they bear while in prison.

On his way out Bishop Greer was asked by Mr. Lee to go to the cellhouse of the condemned men and talk with Frank and Dago Frank, who is an Episcopalian. The gunman had expressed a desire to see the head of the Church. Crofodi was confirmed at the San Salvatore Mission in New York by the late Bishop Potter. Mr. Lee while teaching at the mission became acquainted with Frank's brother and on that account has paid special attention to the prisoner visiting him daily.

Dago Frank Pleads for Aid.

When Mr. Lee and the Bishop stopped in front of Crofodi's cell the prisoner thrust his hand between the bars and shook hands warmly with Dr. Greer. They talked together for ten minutes and in that time the condemned man went into his case, showed Dr. Greer the brief of the trial and pointed out discrepancies between the testimony as given in the brief and the testimony as set forth in the decision handed down by the Court of Appeals affirming the death sentence.

"I am innocent of that murder," said the gunman earnestly. "I had nothing to do with it, knew nothing of it. None of us had anything to do with it."

Bishop Greer expressed great interest in Crofodi's statements and said that he would do all he could to help him. Dago Frank appealed to him as the Bishop of his Church and said that he hoped something could be done to get a new trial.

"Do you read your Bible?" asked the Bishop.

The prisoner showed him a well worn volume and informed him that it was read constantly, in which he was confirmed by Mr. Lee.

The chaplain took the Bishop to the cells of the other gunmen, Whitey Lewis, next to Crofodi, and Lefty Louis and Gyp the Blood, across the aisle. The clergyman shook their hands and conversed briefly with them. He then said an especial good-by to Crofodi and told him to be of good cheer.

"I don't know whether or not you will get out," said Dr. Greer, "but whether you do or not do not lose your faith in God. That will sustain you in all your trials and bring you through triumphantly whatever may be your earthly fate. Never lose your trust in God and He will comfort."

Gunmen Kneel With Bishop.

The gunmen listened eagerly and when he told them to join in prayer the gunmen knelt in their cells and in the corridor between them knelt also the Bishop of New York in his stately robes and the clergyman with him.

The prayer was short, but it affected the four prisoners extraordinarily. One condemned man heard the prayer and seemed much affected. Bishop Greer said that was a solemn and an unforgettable scene.

"Good-by, Bishop," chorused the gunmen as the Bishop and his escort passed through the doors.

Near the door in the way out of the prison Dr. Greer and Mr. Lee passed one of the huge cell blocks where ordinary prisoners are confined. The Bishop expressed curiosity as to the arrangement, so the two went inside the iron doors that bar off each block. A cell door was open and Dr. Greer stepped inside. Mr. Lee closed the door upon him and for a moment the chaplain and the guard who was with them had the unusual opportunity of seeing an Episcopal Bishop, clad in all his vestments, "behind the bars."

Asked what he thought of the cells the Bishop replied that they didn't seem to him fit for a human being to live in and expressed his approval of prison reform efforts. After a short talk with prison attendants he left and went back to town, where he confirmed the class of thirty at St. Paul's Church.

SEVERE EARTHQUAKE IN JAPAN.

Many Killed in City of Akita, 300 Miles North of Tokio.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, March 15.—A despatch from Tokio says there was a severe earthquake to-day in the prefecture of Akita, on the island of Nippon, about three hundred miles north of Tokio. Many persons were killed in the city of Akita and many houses were destroyed or damaged. There were many casualties in the village of Kowakubiki, which was ruined.

The volcano Asama-Yama, ninety miles northwest of Tokio, is in eruption.

The city of Akita is the capital of the Province of Ugo. It had a population at the last census of 37,000. It is but five miles from the Japan Sea and its port is Tauchizaki. It stands on the right bank of the Toshihima-gawa, and manufactures silk on a large scale. In the environs there are fine peach, pear and apple orchards. A long dynasty of fighting daimyos dwelt there until the restoration, at which time the now ruined castle was held by Lord Satake.

Certain branches of native commerce known Akita for a special mark grass which is produced there and which is called Akita-bukki.

MERCHANT IN "FALSE AD" NET.

Dry Goods Man Held on Woman's Charge of Offering Fake Bargain.

TRENTON, N. J., March 15.—The crusade against "false advertising" which was started some time ago by the Chamber of Commerce of this city resulted this afternoon in one of the leading merchants being held in \$500 bail by Justice of the Peace Kealey.

The prisoner is John T. Dunham, connected with S. P. Dunham & Co., dry goods merchants. The complaint against him was brought by a woman of Spring street. She says that she purchased a dress for \$4.95, which she said was advertised as worth \$10. She says the dress was not worth \$10 and the complaint against Dunham resulted.

MAN SHOT BY USHER IN  
MOVIE PANIC; MAY DIE

Fight Caused by Smokers Who  
Persisted in Disobey-  
ing Order.

Several men persisted in smoking during the performance last night at the Atlantic Theatre, 2305 Atlantic avenue, a moving picture house in the Italian section of East New York.

The usher remonstrated with them and after many angry words all the men put away their cigars and cigarettes. The house was crowded to the doors. Many women and children were in the audience.

After the lights had come out for another film a man at the rear of the house lit a match and touched it to his cigar. The single usher was down upon him in a minute and jerked him from his seat.

There was a sharp scuffle in the aisle and men and women began to scream. Then two flashes of light from a revolver split the darkness and a man seated near the scene of the fight shrieked.

Men and women joined in a rush for the doors. The lights were out and no one turned them on. The usher swore and commanded people to stand back from him. There was enough light for the people to see that he was waving a revolver.

He fought his way through the crowd and ran into the street. The audience was calmed by Frank Lapardo, proprietor of the theatre, who turned on the lights.

The man who had yelled was found crouched under his seat unconscious. He was taken to Bradford Street Hospital, where it was found that a bullet had struck him in the abdomen. It was said he will probably die. He is Carmine Munziato, 25 years old, employed in an agate ware factory and living at 2302 Atlantic avenue. His friends said he had nothing to do with the smoking.

The man who fought with the usher did not disclose his identity and no one could point him out to the police. The usher is known in the theatre only by his last name, Savareo. A general alarm was sent out for him.

WILL EMPLOY 800 MORE.

St. Louis Screw Co. Sees Good Outlook and Enlarges Its Plant.

ST. LOUIS, March 15.—The St. Louis Screw Company announced to-day plans for enlarging its capacity and employing 800 additional workmen. Three hundred are employed in the present plant.

The company will erect a mill on a North Side block purchased more than a year ago. Increased business and good prospects have induced the management to give orders for construction.

PARCEL POST MORE HELPFUL.

Farmers May Send Boxes of Produce Weighing Up to 50 Pounds.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—A change has been made in the rules governing the parcel post that is expected to result in a much larger use of the mails by farmers.

Postmaster-General Burleson has announced that hereafter butter, eggs, fruits, berries, vegetables, dressed poultry and other articles entering the parcel post will run from twenty to fifty pounds in weight may be packed in boxes and crates similar to those used when shipment is made by express. Hereafter such parcels had to be in such form that they could be placed in mail bags.

Under the new rule farm products such as those enumerated will not be put in mail bags. Packages of such articles weighing twenty pounds or less are required as heretofore to be packed in such manner as to be safely handled in bags with other mail matter.

PUT ACID IN HER BABY'S MILK.

Mother, Who Committed Suicide, Planned Child's Death Too.

TRENTON, March 15.—Analysis disclosed to-day that Mrs. John Hancock, who killed herself by drinking carbolic acid yesterday afternoon, also planned to take the life of her six-week-old child.

She had placed a quantity of the poison in the bottle from which the baby was to be fed.

SEE FOREBODINGS IN  
A MOVE BY RUSSIA

Secret Meeting of Cabinet Mem-  
bers and Duma Representa-  
tives on Armaments.

LARGE SUMS TO BE SPENT

New Departure in International  
Politics Shows Influ-  
ence of the Czar.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, March 15.—A secret meeting at St. Petersburg on Saturday of the Premier, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, War and Finance and sixty-five representatives of the Duma (Socialists, Laborites, Poles and Mahomedans being excluded) is attracting the attention of Europe and receives much prominence in the London morning papers. It is known to have been connected with increased military and naval expenditure.

A St. Petersburg despatch to the Times says the Ministers told the Duma members who were present at the meeting that Russia must increase her peace efforts by 460,000 men, making a total army of 1,700,000. It is understood that the extra outfit will be 500,000,000 rubles (\$250,000,000), which will be spread over three years.

The political expert of the Daily Telegraph, who is now in St. Petersburg, treats the meeting as most important, connecting as it does Russia's determination to outstrip the strongest military nations. He says the Ministers informed the Duma representatives present of the plans for defence and the cost. The Ministers answered the questions put to them and seem to have satisfied the Duma representatives.

The correspondent says Russia will need for the purpose of realizing the scheme a much larger military budget than ever before and the representatives of the Duma are prepared to vote the funds with alacrity. The meeting, the correspondent says, was a new departure in international politics and incidentally indicates fresh proof of the direct personal influence of the Czar on public business.

The correspondent discusses the means of meeting the expenditure. The anticipated shortage of the returns from alcohol will make it necessary that new sources of income be found. He declares an income tax and succession duties have been rejected. The most attractive proposals are the establishment of monopolies. The grain trade will not be touched but the tobacco and naphtha industries are likely to be taken over by the state.

One proposal is that the Government should buy all the oil wells and naphtha works which are owned by private firms. Another is that the Government shall take over only the sale of the products, leaving the industrial part in private hands.

There is much feeling against the naphtha mines on the ground that their grasping policy has forced up prices 400 per cent in two years. A financial committee will shortly be appointed under the presidency of Count Witte to consider the question.

(Other Cable News on Page 3.)

SAY YALE-MEN PELTED GABY.

Senator Clapp's Son Among Alleged Disturbers of the Show.

NEW HAVEN, March 15.—It was announced to-night that the Yale faculty would start to-morrow an investigation of the antics of the three students who were arrested last night for creating a disturbance at the show given here by Gaby Deslys.

The three arrested are R. H. Clapp and P. H. Buxton, freshmen, and Philip von Dornsmith, a post-graduate. Clapp is from Minnesota and is the son of United States Senator Clapp. He is a member of the track team. Buxton is from Wellesley, Mass., and von Dornsmith from New York.

The freshmen are charged with throwing peanuts at Gaby and the third man yelled too much at her to suit the police. They will be tried in the police court to-morrow.

FOX HUNT ABOARD LINER.

Escape of Two Reynards Diverts the Verdi's Passengers.

When the Lampart & Holt liner Verdi, yesterday from South American ports, was off Bahia two silver foxes that formed part of a menagerie bound for the Kansas City zoo escaped from their cage in the middle of the night and ran under a boat cover, where two stewards were asleep.

The stewards fled to the glory hole and the ship's company started on a fox hunt, the first ever indulged in aboard a Lampart & Holt liner.

The foxes and their pursuers woke up all the animals and most of the passengers. They badly scared six llamas, including one intended for Col. William Jennings Bryan, and set the cassowaries, the flamingoes and the storks screaming.

The foxes were captured before dawn and put back in their cage.

"JAG CURE" KILLS THREE.

Inebriates in Chicago Jail Succumb to a New Treatment.

CHICAGO, March 15.—Edward Moore, John Vurtors and Daniel Kennedy were sentenced to the Bridewell in various stages of alcoholism. Jailer Whitman has a "cure" for inebriates, which is said to contain strychnine. It was used on this trio, and now all are in the county morgue.

Whitman declares the cure could not have killed them, though it was admitted that they might have been weakened by it, because of the advanced stage of their alcoholism. Dr. C. E. Schleif, in charge of the alcoholic ward, says he believes the cure efficient, but says they have not had ample opportunity to test its merits.

HUERTA INCREASES HIS ARMY.

He Issues a Decree Raising Regular Force to 250,000.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

MEXICO CITY, March 15.—President Huerta has issued a decree increasing the strength of the regular Federal army to 250,000 men. Its present strength is 200,000.

Recruiting will be active as it is intended to form a total of ninety infantry, forty-five cavalry and twenty scouting regiments, five batteries of field artillery and ten of mountain artillery and five machine gun companies. There will also be a new sanitary corps, a railway corps, an aviation corps and an emergency brigade composed of two infantry and one cavalry regiment with corresponding artillery and seventeen transportation squadrons.

SAVES BOY'S LIFE; VANISHES.

Man Plunges Into Bronx River Ice to Rescue.

A man who looked as if the warm weather of yesterday was about the only gracious thing that had come his way in months plunged into the Bronx River yesterday afternoon and rescued from drowning a boy who had fallen through the ice. Passing the lad over to those who watched his struggles in the icy current the bedraggled stranger dived again and again to reach a second boy that had tumbled in. He was unable to rescue this boy. In the excitement the stranger disappeared.

Chief Forester Herman H. Merkle of the Bronx Zoological Park also went into the river after the boys. He and the unidentified hero worked in the danger of being carried under the ice and a great Sunday crowd cheered them. James Schenck, 12 years old, of East street, Cypress Hills, was the lad who was drowned. The other boy is his cousin, Frank Longo, 10 years old, of 2385 Lorillard street, The Bronx.

WOMEN PAINT "VOTES"  
ON CATHEDRAL WINDOW

Suffragettes Desecrate Church at Birmingham—Interrupt Services Elsewhere.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

BIRMINGHAM, March 15.—Suffragettes desecrated the cathedral here some time Saturday night and caused considerable damage to a famous window besides daubing suffragette phrases in white paint all over the interior of the building. They painted their slogans on the walls, pillars, floors and galleries up fact, practically everywhere except on the ceiling and altar.

"Votes for women" was scrawled in paint across Sir Philip Burne-Jones's stained glass window and the damage here is likely to be permanent.

The desecration was discovered this morning. It is assumed that some one hid in the building after the evening service last night and admitted others during the night. The mischief must have occurred several people for hours. There is no clue to the perpetrators of the outrage.

Bands of suffragettes interrupted the services at Westminster Abbey, the York and Glasgow cathedrals and in other churches by chanting advertisements of Mrs. Pankhurst. No arrests were made.

Immediately after her release from Holloway jail yesterday Sylvia Pankhurst wrote to the dean of Westminster notifying him of her intention to lead East End suffragettes to the abbey on the evening of March 23 to crave the granting of votes to women. She said this would do away with the necessity of hunger strikes and further the conclusion of peace between the militants and the Government on terms of peace and honor. She requested the dean to adopt the service on this occasion for this matter.

VICE-ADMIRAL IN SCANDAL.

High Japanese Official Arrested on Naval Craft Charges.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

TOKYO, March 15.—Vice-Admiral Tsuruta Matsuo has been arrested on charges connected with the grafting in naval contracts. These revelations were made during the trial of an employee of the German electrical firm of Siemens & Schuckert for blackmail. This employee, who acted in a confidential capacity in the Tokio office of the company, said the firm allowed high Japanese naval officials as high as 15 per cent commission on orders for electrical and other installations on warships.

The scandal has led to a deadlock between the upper and lower houses of the Japanese Parliament over the naval estimates.

FOR A SUFFRAGE HOLIDAY.

Governors to Be Asked to Proclaim One for May 2.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—A suffrage holiday is what the Congress committee of the National Association has requested of the Governors of the different States in order that all women may participate in the great demonstration on May 2.

Mrs. Mollie McCormick, chairman of the Congressional committee, says that a letter has been written to Gov. Glynn and other State Executives asking them to proclaim a suffrage holiday May 2 in order that the working women as well as all others may participate in the suffrage demonstration which is to be held in every part of the country on that day.

MRS. ASTOR OPERATED ON.

Former Nannie Langhorne Will Keep to Room for Some Time.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, March 15.—Mrs. Waldorf Astor, formerly Nannie Langhorne Shaw, underwent a slight operation at her London residence to-day.

She will be confined to her room for several weeks. This will probably interfere with her proposed reception and dance on March 21 for seventy-five girls who are employed by her dressmaker. She was to receive the girls on this occasion.

FEDERALS OPEN  
TORREON FIGHT

Their Army Drives Back  
Rebel Outposts and  
Invites Battle.

VELASCO GIVES ORDER

Wireless Instruction Is  
Caught by Villa's Opera-  
tor at Chihuahua.

ONWARD MOVEMENT BEGUN

Rapid Fire Guns on Rebels' Armored Truck Slaughter Many Federals.

EL PASO, Tex., March 15.—Word was received here to-day that the Federal army at Torreon is pressing the rebels and is inviting Villa's force to battle. The rebel outposts have been driven back and an engagement may be forced several miles north of Torreon unless Villa gets his men in action soon.

Part of the Federal army started out of Torreon a few days ago, according to reports from Americans in Chihuahua. Other reports indicate that Gen. Velasco has begun an active campaign to drive Villa's men from Torreon and the adjacent country.

It is said that the rebel soldiers have fretted over Villa's delay in beginning the attack on Torreon. The Federalists insist that Villa has held back, having learned that the Federals have a far superior force.

Wireless Intercepted.

News of the Federal movement was learned by the rebel wireless operator at Chihuahua, who picked up a wireless message from Gen. Velasco, the Federal commander at Torreon, to Gen. Rodriguez, ordering him to meet the rebel advance. Villa also learned in the same way that the Federals had reached La Cardena, 70 miles west of Torreon. The U. S. army wireless station at Fort Bliss, near here, also picked up the messages.

Villa then got on the move immediately, ordering a general advance of his cavalry from various points, including 2,000 men under Gen. Urbana at Palajo.

In a clash between the Federals and rebels an armored truck bearing seven rapid fire guns was used by the rebels, great slaughter being done among the Federals. The number of casualties has not yet been reported.

It was also said that no telegrams except official messages would be carried over the wires to the border for the time being.

A special train was sent south to-day from Juarez bearing Gen. Angeles, Minister of War in the Carranza Cabinet, who is to be Villa's adviser during the Torreon attack and who will command the rebel artillery in person. Gen. Angeles is a former artillery officer in the Mexican regular army.

Reported Attempt to Escape.

United States troops spent to-day investigating all tents inside the camp of the Mexican Federal prisoners at Fort Bliss. They also investigated a report that the prisoners were tunnelling from one of the tents to the outside in an effort to escape.

No tunnel was found. Col. Loughborough, commanding the camp guard, declared to-night that not only was the story untrue but he said it would be impossible for the prisoners to dig such a tunnel, as the camp is on almost solid rock.

"It took 100 pounds of dynamite to help excavate a cesspool ten feet square," he said, "and we broke almost all the test pits in the quartermaster's department setting up the tents. To dig a tunnel out of the prison camp is an impossible job, but we investigated the report and found no truth in it."

REBEL REPORTS "BIG NEWS"

Carranza Envoy in Paris Promises to Send Details.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

MEXICO CITY, March 15.—Juan Sanchez Azcona, ex-secretary to President Madero, who is on a mission to Paris for Gen. Carranza, cabled on February 7 that Diaz Lombardo, former Mexican Minister to France, presented him to the American Ambassador, with whom he had a most cordial interview, the result of which would be most important for the revolution.

Senator Azcona promised to send details of the interview by mail, as he said, they were too delicate to trust to the cable. This cablegram was exhibited to The Sun correspondent to-day by a prominent Maderista.

Secretary of the Interior Alcocer says a strong Federal force has gone to attack Castillo Brito, who holds Tenosique, with 400 rebels. A fight is expected at any moment.

Reports from the State of Morelos indicate that detachments of the Federal garrison at Jofutla, who were supposed to have joined the rebels, are turning up everywhere and are rejoining the Federal garrisons at Yautepec, Cuernavaca and other places.

The first Government despatches from Jofutla said that the Maderistas had carried away three machine guns and one field gun. This proves to be incorrect, as the Federals on retaking Jofutla the next day captured three guns.

The rebels moved toward Tlaxtepec.